

Mark A. Bird
8315 Larchwood Street
New Carrollton, Maryland 20784
June 12, 1999 JUN 25 A9:35

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, room 1601
Rockville, Maryland 20852

SUBJECT: DOCKET NO. 98N-1038

Dear Sirs:

I would like to request that you maintain labeling requirements permanently and for all eternity of all irradiated foods and food ingredients that have been irradiated. If irradiated foods and ingredients are not labeled so that the consumer can clearly tell, you would in effect be forcing people to eat something they may or may not want. Advocates of irradiated food keep saying how safe it is. That may be so, but I couldn't care less. No one is responsible for my health and safety except me and I don't want to eat irradiated food. And I would sincerely object to anyone who wants to force me to eat something I don't want.

As far as organic standards are concerned, I also object to attempts to restrict freedom of speech by reserving the label of "organic" to products so certified by some federal government agency (whose definition I may or may not agree with). I also object to proposals whereby independent producers may not be allowed to accurately label their products in a way that is more specific or truthful than some government agency allows.

I have a suggestion for new food labeling standards. How about this:

1. TRUTHFUL AND 2. ACCURATE .

Sincerely yours,

Mark A. Bird

Mark A. Bird

98N 1038

C 3035-



Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, room 1601
Rockville, Maryland 20852

20B37+0001

